



Letter in Support of SB 423 and SB 424 to Require Humane Euthanasia in Michigan

Dear Michigan Legislators,

Those of us who have dedicated our profession and effort in the world of animal care and sheltering understand that due to medical or behavioral issues, euthanasia is a very real fact. Because of this reality, we feel it is our moral responsibility to perform this difficult action with compassion by offering a humane death to animals who have entrusted to our care.

A humane death for animals can be achieved by direct injection of a drug called sodium pentobarbital. This injection is referred to as EBI; Euthanasia by Injection, and is accepted by all national veterinary and humane organizations as the most humane method currently available for euthanasia. EBI is painless to the animal, and takes effect quickly. When properly trained staff in EBI offer this option to end pain and suffering, other forms of euthanasia certainly seem outdated and cruel.

EBI presents the most efficient way to euthanize. Gas chambers are often inefficient in that old, sick or injured animals have medical issues that can postpone the carbon monoxide involved in gas chamber euthanasia. As a result, animals whose lives end in this fashion experience much stress and fear. In addition, very young animals are often physiologically incapable of responding to carbon monoxide. In the case of a pregnant animal, the mother may die during a gas chamber euthanasia, while her unborn babies are suffocated to death. This type of death is simply unnecessary.

Gas chamber euthanasia are inefficient. Typically, animals euthanized in this way can only be gassed one at a time. Gas chamber euthanasia take a long period of time, and can be painful for the animal as they lose their lives.

Not only are gas chambers ineffective and inefficient, gas chambers are dangerous to humans. Carbon monoxide is a hazardous substance as it is highly toxic and has no odor, no color, and no taste. Carbon monoxide is one of the leading causes of accidental poisoning in the United States and repeated exposure to carbon monoxide, even at low levels, can result in long-term effects, including (but not limited to) impaired memory, breathing difficulties, muscle weakness, heart irregularity, and brain damage.

Because in our environment of scarce financial resources, we can't forget that gas chambers are more expensive than EBI. Recent studies have proven that EBI, including the costs of permitting and acquiring euthanasia drugs, actually costs less than using a gas chamber.

It is my hope that you will support SB 423 and SB 424 to Require Humane Euthanasia in Michigan.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Trudy Ender".

Trudy Ender, Executive Director, Humane Society of West Michigan